



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications – (401) 222-8471  
Embargo until: Immediate release – Wednesday, January 18, 2012

### **RIDE offers grant to support innovation powered by technology Statewide conference on technology and innovation scheduled for February 11**

As part of her commitment to exploring opportunities for innovation, Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist announced today (January 18) that the R.I. Department of Education (RIDE) will award a \$470,000 grant to support the redesign of a school that will use technology to transform education.

All districts, charter public schools, and state-operated schools are eligible to apply for the grant. Applicants will propose a school site at which they will create a technology-rich learning environment that fundamentally rethinks and restructures teaching and learning through such initiatives as digital curriculum, gaming, 1:1 computing, virtual-learning environments, expanded learning opportunities, and flexible scheduling.

The school would become a pilot program to help launch a statewide initiative in innovations powered by technology. The school that receives the award will launch implementation during the next school year and refine the process during the 2013-14 school year.

“As I meet with teachers, students, and community members across the state, one of the topics that often comes up is technology in our schools, virtual learning, and digital classrooms,” Commissioner Gist said. “I am very enthusiastic about some of the possibilities that technology offers for improving instruction and advancing student achievement, and I believe we have a great opportunity before us to move forward toward these innovations.”

“This grant is great news for those of us on the Commission to Study the Purchase and Use of Textbooks, who have worked diligently on understanding and recognizing the terrific opportunities that technology offers today’s students,” said Rep. Joy Hearn (D-Barrington, East Providence), a co-chair of the Commission. “With this grant, Commissioner Gist is recognizing the changing educational landscape, and I applaud her action, as well as her support of the Commission on this important issue.”

RIDE has posted the grant application on the RIDE website. RIDE will review the applications submitted and will award the grant, which is funded by a federal fund for education technology and by foundation support, through a competitive process based in part on need and on a demonstrated commitment to innovation powered by technology. The application deadline is March 23.

- More -

**Telephone** 401-222-4600 **Fax** 401-222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex,  
sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, religion, national origin, or disability

To prepare schools and districts to submit the best possible applications and to open up a statewide conversation on how technology can power innovation in Rhode Island schools, RIDE has scheduled a conference on Saturday, February 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Rhode Island College, featuring a number of expert speakers from across the country as well as numerous breakout sessions. Information on registration for the conference, which is open to the public, is also posted on the RIDE website.

“Technology plays a vital role in our lives, and it should play a vital role in our schools as well,” said Commissioner Gist. “I look forward to receiving excellent, innovative ideas that can move Rhode Island to the forefront in the use of technology to support teaching and learning.”

Further information about the grant is posted on the RIDE website, at:

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/VL/TechOps/1to1/1to1\\_home.aspx](http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/VL/TechOps/1to1/1to1_home.aspx)

Further information about the conference is also posted on the RIDE website, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/VL/TechOps/1to1/2012conference.aspx>

###